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Good evening,

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the Committee, I am Anne D'Alleva, a professor of art history and Head of the Department of Art and Art History. I work in the School of Fine Arts and have worked at UConn for 15 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and for all of your support for the University of Connecticut.

We understand the challenges you face in reducing the state's budget deficit and we are grateful for all your hard work in addressing it.

However, the recommended budget released last week creates a gap of approximately \$40 million between state funding and what is needed to operate the university next year. This reduction to the appropriation would have a devastating impact on the innovative teaching, research, and service that we do.

In the School of Fine Arts, we support Connecticut's economy by educating the next generation of artists, performers, designers, and arts administrators, people who are the drivers of Connecticut's creative economy, and who help make our state such a wonderful place to live. Our own concerts, plays, exhibitions and media productions reach thousands of audience members each year, and through our engagement programs our faculty and students bring the arts to communities throughout the state.

At the School of Fine Arts we are also partners in innovative teaching and research that have a meaningful impact on society, an opportunity that is created by the special mix of liberal arts, STEM disciplines, professions, and arts that UConn offers as a land-grant university. Please allow me to share

an example of the ways that in the School of Fine Arts we support innovation through creative collaboration.

Recently one of our faculty members in sculpture was approached by an engineering graduate student for help in making a mold of an expensive and fragile piece of hospital equipment. Our creative solution for making the mold enabled this student to fabricate an improvement for this piece of equipment, making it a more effective detector of breast cancer.

Building on this experience, in a few weeks we'll host a special workshop for art and engineering students to learn advanced mold-making techniques together.

The deep cuts under consideration would severely undermine our ability to engage in creative research collaborations and innovative teaching like this, initiatives that have a direct impact on our lives.

We can't continue do this great work without your support, and the support of the people of this state. We are grateful for all that you do, and on behalf of my colleagues in the School of Fine Arts, I respectfully request that you reconsider the proposed cut to the University of Connecticut's appropriation. Thank you.